

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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## OREGON 's Watershed

Earth is an integrated system and scientists must understand that fact in order to address complex environmental challenges. Snowmelt is a source of water for more than one billion people. *Temperature, NOT precipitation, is the driver of snowpack.*

In OREGON, the Willamette Valley depends upon the CASCADE RANGE WINTER SNOWPACK. The projection is that by 2050 there will be an average 56 percent drop in the amount of water stored in peak snowpack in the *McKenzie River watershed* of the OREGON CASCADE RANGE.

Other locations with similar climate change include the ANDES MOUNTAINS, LOWER-ELEVATION ALPS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, JAPAN, and NEW ZEALAND. A model was developed that can be easily adapted to help the other similar regions determine future loss of snow water.

New choices are coming for western OREGON because of significant impacts on agriculture, ecosystems, hydropower, industry, municipalities, and recreation. OREGON will have to manage water resources differently. There will be greater risk of flooding when snowfall changes to rainfall in low mountainous elevations. Changes in dam operations will be needed, but even that could not make up for the predicted loss of snow storage of water. Summer water flows will be lessened. Plus, the population will rise.

The scientists at OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY published their data in the "*National Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*", with support from the NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. Professor Anne Nolin at the COLLEGE OF EARTH, OCEAN, AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES co-authored the report, which is one of the most detailed studies of its type done on a large watershed.

(Source: August 8, 2013, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "*Global warming to cut snow water storage 56 percent in Oregon Watershed*" Press Release)

## CITIES HAVE THE RIGHT over "Local Land-Use"

**The Appellate Division in Albany handed the city of Dryden a unanimous decision of agreement with the city of Dryden that the NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION ENSHRINES CITY RIGHT TO MAKE LOCAL LAND USE DECISIONS. Now 350 more towns across the U.S. are taking similar actions.**

The town of Dryden, NEW YORK, fought the fracking industry and won. Their Town Board called three town meetings about an impending gas drilling and then voted to pass a city measure restricting gas and oil development within their city limits. The town was sued and when the industry billionaire lost, industry appealed. *Deborah Goldberg*, the managing attorney of EARTHJUSTICE's Northeast office represented the city.

EARTHJUSTICE is active in **CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, and elsewhere across the country** because the fracking industry is in such a rush to blast the rocky underground formations with nasty chemicals, sand, and water.

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Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, secrecy is being challenged nationally across the country by EARTHJUSTICE. Another instance is that in WYOMING the nasty chemicals must be identified, but an overseer agency has been subverting the law's intent by granting secrecy requests to industry, so EARTHJUSTICE is appealing to the **WHYOMING Supreme Court** to challenge the secrecy waivers.

(Source: Summer 2013, EARTHJUSTICE, "On the Frontlines Cases, Issues, Victories, NEW YORK: The town that fought fracking—and won")

"A Fierce Green Fire"

You probably already know that Man built the equivalent of 10 New York Cities last year and that MOTHER NATURE's natural habitat may not exist for future generations, unless you preserve it.

Did you also know there is **a new eco-documentary film** at <http://www.afiercegreenfire.com>. "A FIERCE GREEN FIRE" is based on a book by the same title, authored by Philip Shabecoff.

(Sources: June/July 2013 MOTHER EARTH NEWS, "Homestead Heritage Self- Sufficient Living in Action by Bryan Welch September 17 MAIL TRIBUNE "Film documents the rise of the environment movement", by E-The Environment magazine; <http://www.emagazine.com>)

Jeremy Siefert's "GMO OMG" Animation Film

Some people remember how MONSANTO donated GMO seeds after a mega quake hit HAITI awhile ago. "Down with MONSANTO" was the outcry of 10,000 rural HAITI farmers responded by marching in the streets against MONSANTO. HAITI's rural farmers were cohesive in their march for food sovereignty and native seeds. They symbolically burned the GMO seeds because GMO agrichemical crops are causative of farmer debt, extinction of their own seeds, and ensnarement to industrial agrichemical practices that would have destroyed their soil.

In Jeremy Siefert's new ANIMATION FILM, entitled "GMO OMG" show how pesticides are sprayed on agricultural super bugs and super weeds. Viewers who do not even understanding what a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) is, will be angered at how their informed consent has been taken away by the agrichemical cartel. The movie may not tell you that giant agrichemical corporate growth for profit is what MONSANTO wants you not to know. You don't have to show the film to your friends and neighbors. *The film is alarming and constantly provocative in asking viewers, "Is this the end of real food?"*. If you share it, then then people don't have to explain further that exploitation is contrary to what's good for communities, people's health, or the planet.

(Source: Fall 2013 [www.fairworldproject.org](http://www.fairworldproject.org), "Farmers Stop Monsanto and Take Back Our Food, Our Farms, Our Democracy, and Our Planet" by Dave Murphy and "Is This the End of Real Food GMO OMG" BY Jeremy Siefert)

Lethal CLOTHIANIDIN on Rice

CALIFORNA's **pesticide-regulating agency** recommended CLOTHIANIDIN be approved for use on rice. CLOTHIANIDIN is a LETHAL BEE KILLER and there is widespread Colony Collapse Disorder with honeybees. Bee kill-off would be appalling for the nearby almond and plum orchards that depend upon bee pollination. CLOTHIANIDIN is also deadly to aquatic creatures that live in the flooded rice fields. EARTHJUSTICE has appealed to the regulating agency to reverse its position.

(Source: Summer 2013, EARTHJUSTICE, "California Approves Bee-Killing Pesticide for Rice"; [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org) )

Another Lawsuit Against the EPA

The plaintiffs are THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT, FOOD AND WATER WATCH, THE HUMANE SOCIETY, and IOWA CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT. In July 2012, the EPA unlawfully scrapped a rule requiring itself to obtain from state and federal agencies the

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farm waste management locations, practices, and animal quantities. The data is essential to the **Clean Water Act**, but the EPA failed to respond.

(Source: August 24, 2013, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "*Environmental, Animal Groups are Sueing the EPA*" by the Associated Press)

### Babylon the Great

The word "Babylon" means "Confusion". Confusion comes before clarity. Many horns of an oligarchy beast seem to be rising up out of the sea of nations. Get braced for the likes of *Dow Agro Sciences*, *GMO shareholders*, and *the Tobacco Associates*, for example, to require world consumers conform to the *lowest* industry standards. The big question on everyone's mind is whether the advancing beast of global trade unity will curtail our UNITED STATES OF AMERICA constitutional freedom to redress grievances.

The *Great Awakening* to shift into a higher consciousness than materialism may be what's at stake. It seems the global economy is dependent upon growth of gross national product, AND multinational corporations are run by boards required by law to manage their companies to maximize profitability for shareholders. If corporate executives question their company's focus on growth, they would likely lose their jobs. There was no public debate about the trade deals that leaders of nations decided to sign up for as participating nations.

An oligarchy world may profit the beast of commerce and world trade, but it may mean continuance of going beyond the renewable capacity that our planet can sustain. Perhaps new technologies for renewable energies will emerge. Maybe there will come more efficient packaging, transportation reduction, toxics bans, water usage restrictions, and increased recycling of materials by the largest global corporations if corporate executives make some effort to decrease the environmental footprints of their companies.

It remains to be seen what the lowest common denominator rule will be a return to the DARK AGES of "Buyer Beware", or NOT. As you consider some recent scenarios you might discover what will be the effective means for upgrading from the *Lowest Common Denominator* rule of thumb, to the standards on High.

For example, in 2008 Chinese dairies sickened thousands of babies and killed several because *melamine* was intentionally added to milk. The scandal caused the head of CHINA's FDA to be executed.

And recently NEW ZEALAND's largest milk-powder exporter, FONTERRA CO-OPERATIVE GROUP Ltd's *Chief Executive* admitted LACTOFERRIN was shipped by NEW ZEALAND to CHINA. It apparently contained too high of *nitrate* levels that impairs delivery of oxygen in food. It was shipped to CHINA, where Chinese lab testing uses different methods, and it was found to have unsafe levels of contamination. The CHINESE GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR OF QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION, AND QUARANTINE seized the protein, a milk extract used in products such as infant formula.

But FONTERRA's spokesman claimed the NEW ZEALAND milk powder was tested in NEW ZEALAND, and that it did meet NEW ZEALAND's specifications. Therefore *Damien O'Connor*, the NEW ZEALAND *Labor Party's* spokesman opined that NEW ZEALAND must implement interim food-safety measures to guarantee its exports are contamination-free and safe. He admitted that infant formula ingredients that NEW ZEALAND exported to CHINA contained *hazardous bacteria* and the FONTERRA company has apologized to Chinese consumers. But under the *Lowest Common Denominator* which the NEW ZEALAND specifications were, what would the outcome have been.

Here's another example, the Sept. 9 WALL STREET JOURNAL "*International Trade Can Involve Some Fishy Business*" commentary by *Greg Autry*, claims raw sewage from CHINA's burgeoning cities, as well as pesticides and heavy metal output of poorly regulated industrial plants, flows into the Yangtze River, which flows into fishponds. According to *Mr. Autry*, recently 55,000 pig corpses were discovered in the water supply of the largest city.

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Another example is that UNITED KINGDOM regulators warn that cheap honey was shipped from the SOUTH PACIFIC and was passed off as if it were expensive *Manuka* honey from NEW ZEALAND.

And the question remains, If MONSANTO won't tell you, how will you learn that independent studies found out that GMO food damages rat kidneys and livers. With the Lowest Common Denominator trade rule, how will you hear that some studies linked ROUNDUP to cancer and Parkinson's disease. Will your body forewarn you of the health risks, or will you be at the mercy of industrial growth for the sake of profitability, not health concerns.

(Sources: <http://us.mc1844.mail.yahoo.com/mc/welcome?gx=1&tm=1372107713&.rand=7un43dvf>, June 23, 2013, "Secret Trade Agreements Threaten to Undo Our Last Shreds of Food Safety" by Katherine Paul and Ronnie Cummins, August 21, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Westland Milk Products Chinese Authorities Seize Milk-Powder Imports"; August 22, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "New Zealand Dairy Under China Scrutiny"; 2013 PATAGONIA CATALOGUE, "The Elephant in the Room" by Rick Ridgeway; August 29, 2013, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL article "U.K. probes NEW ZEALAND Honey Labeling" by Lucy Craymer; and [www.fairworldproject.org](http://www.fairworldproject.org), "Is this the end of real food GMO" article by Jeremy Siefert)

#### What's Really Fair Equity

The world currently has enough food to feed about 14 billion people, but the wealthiest nations waste about half of their food production. GMO crops go into ethanol production, or junk foods. The solution is to get to know your local farmers by shopping at their local *Farmers' Markets*, or join a *Community Supported Agriculture* program (CSA) and buy local, organic, and seasonal fresh whole produce.

#### Southern OREGON

The SOUTHERN OREGON RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER is in jeopardy of Jackson County budget cuts. The agricultural Extension supports *small woodlots, small farms, orchards, vineyards, the Master Food Preservers, Master Gardeners, Master Recyclers, Land Stewards, the Research Center, and Plant Clinics*. [FriendsORE@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsORE@gmail.com) estimate that it would cost the average household about \$5 a year to keep the Extension open. Public hearings in December are regarding a May 2014 ballot measure to secure two million dollars annually.

#### Ashland, OREGON's Road Diet

Since inequality is the greatest predictor of social ills across an incredible range of phenomena, designing towns for **walking, cycling, and smaller vehicles** will result in stronger, safer, more cohesive communities and healthier people, delivering real enhancements to quality of life. An effective society is one in which everyone can flourish, according to Scientist, *Paul Gilding*, in the **must-read book THE GREAT DISRUPTION**.

(Sources: [www.noimpactproject.org/change](http://www.noimpactproject.org/change); Al Gore's book OUR CHOICE; September 17 DAILY TIDINGS, "Climate Change is Here Now" by Alan Journe; WHOLE EARTH DISCIPLINE by *Stuart Brand*; THE REVENGE OF GAIA by *James Lovelock*, and most importantly THE GREAT DISRUPTION by *Paul Gilding*; and the September 17 MAIL TRIBUNE article, "Ashland 'Road Diet' gets mixed reviews" by *Vickie Aldoces*)

"We cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."  
--Albert Einstein

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